

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9240

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR BILATERAL NUCLEAR TALKS

REF: BLOOM/SCHINMAN TELECON, 6/20/77

1. DIRGEN YAMANO OF ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU CALLED IN SCICOUNS TO DISCUSS PLANNING FOR FORTHCOMING TECHNICAL TALKS CONCERNING FUTURE OF TOKAI MURA. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON WAYS AND MEANS OF ACCOMODATING ENORMOUS PRESS INTEREST IN TALKS, AND TO RELAY MINISTER UNO'S DESIRE TO SEE TOKAI PROBLEM RESOLVED BY END OF JULY.

2. JAPANESE PRESS CORPS HAS ASKED THAT FOLLOWING DEMANDS BE MET:

- A. PRESS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL OF US DELEGATION.
- B. PRESENCE OF REPORTER AT FIRST DAY OF MEETINGS (PRESUMABLY 6/27 IN TOKYO).
- C. PRESENCE OF REPORTERS AT TOKAI MURA THROUGHOUT SESSIONS THERE AND PRESS BRIEFINGS AT END OF EACH DAY.
- D. DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS DURING REPORT WRITING IN TOKYO.

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STA TOOK POSITION ON ABOVE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. IT IS UP TO US DEL HEAD TO DECIDE IF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IS WARRANTED.
- B. PRESS WILL BE ALLOWED ENTRANCE TO BEGINNING OF FIRST DAY OF TALKS FOR PURPOSE OF TAKING PHOTOS, BUT

WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION. AT END OF DAY, JOINT (FOREIGN AND JAPANESE) PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD BY US AND GOJ DELEGATIONS, AT WHICH STATEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON CONCLUSIONS REACHED. (THIS COULD INCLUDE DETAILS OF SUBSEQUENT AGREED SCHEDULE, TERMS OF REFERENCE OF JOINT STUDY, OR WHATEVER ELSE PARTIES AGREE TO TELL PRESS.)

C AND D. REPORTERS WILL BE ADMITTED TO TOKAI ON FIRST DAY FOR PICTURE-TAKING AND TO RECEIVE GENERAL BRIEFING ON TOKAI OPERATION (NO PROPRIETARY INFO) FROM PNC STAFF. (JAPANESE SIDE MAY INSIST ON PRESS BRIEFING AT END OF EACH DAY IN TOKAI AND TOKYO, SINCE MINISTER UNO IS PLANNING TO GIVE RUNNING COMMENTARY ON PROGRESS OF TALKS DURING CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN BUT WE SHOULD RESIST STRONGLY.)

3. EMBOFF STRESSED HEAVILY TO YAMANO THAT CONDUCTING TALKS IN PUBLICITY FISHBOWL COULD ACT AGAINST INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND URGED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE BY STA TO AVOID BLOW-BY-BLOW NEWS COVERAGE. HE POINTED OUT THAT PURPOSE OF TALKS IS TO CONDUCT JOINT STUDY AND THAT US DELEGATION PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO REACH FIRM DECISIONS. FURTHERMORE TOO MUCH PUBLICITY COULD SERVE TO CUT OFF US ABILITY TO CONSIDER VARIOUS OPTIONS AT HIGH LEVEL IN USG
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FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF TECHNICAL ROUND.

4. YAMANO REPORTED THAT UNO HAD CALLED IN FROM HIS CAMPAIGN TRIP TO SAY CONSTITUENTS WERE ANNOYED AT DELAY IN START-UP OF TOKAI OPERATION BEYOND JULY AND ATTRIBUTION BY STA OF REASON FOR DELAY AS BEING BRIEF DELAY IN START OF TECHNICAL TALKS. THIS HAD CAUSED UNO SOME EMBARRASSMENT AND HE WAS THEREFORE "INSISTING" THAT TOKAI BE ALLOWED TO BEGIN OPERATIONS BY END OF JULY. STA STAFF THEREFORE DEDUCED FOLLOWING TIMETABLE: (A) TECHNICAL TALKS TO BE COMPLETED BY JULY 11 AND REPORTS SUBMITTED TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS; (B) POLITICAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD SOON THEREAFTER, VENUE UNDECIDED; (C) ASSUMING POLITICAL AGREEMENT, UNO TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR "CEREMONIAL" REASONS SOMETIME BEFORE JULY 27, AT WHICH TIME AGREEMENT IS ANNOUNCED; (D) UNO RETURNS TO JAPAN BY JULY 27 TO BE PRESENT AT OPENING OF ONE-WEEK SPECIAL DIET SESSION. EMBOFF REMARKED THAT SCHEDULE SEEMED TO BE VERY TIGHT AND WHETHER IT COULD BE MET WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON OUTCOME OF TECHNICAL TALKS AND DEGREE OF AGREEMENT REACHED THEREIN; HE

ALSO POINTED OUT THAT US POLITICAL DECISION COULD REQUIRE SOME TIME, CONSIDERING HIGH LEVEL OF USG OFFICIALS INVOLVED.

5. CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, PNC HAS RESERVED HOTEL SPACE IN MITO CITY NEAR TOKAI FOR 11 VISITING TEAM MEMBERS AND ONE EMBASSY OFFICER, STARTING EVENING OF JUNE 28 AND EXTENDING THROUGH JULY 5. EMBASSY WAS ASKED TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN TOKYO FROM JULY 6 TO DEPARTURE FROM JAPAN. QUESTION WAS RAISED AS TO WHETHER GROUP WOULD WORK ON JULY 4, US HOLIDAY. USING INFO FROM REF TELECON, EMBASSY HAS ADVISED STA THAT US SIDE IS PREPARED TO WORK ON HOLIDAY.
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6. FYI. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS GOJ TO TRY TO RESTRAIN PRESS, BUT WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT WE WILL SUCCEED--CONSIDERING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF TALKS TO JAPANESE AND AGGRESSIVENESS OF PRESS. BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS TO LIMIT DAMAGE TO EXTENT THAT ACTUAL NATURE OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS IS NOT REVEALED. WE RECOMMEND THAT SCHEINMAN HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON ARRIVAL; OTHERWISE HE AND OTHERS WILL BE HOUNDED BY REPORTERS. REGARDING UNO'S RENEWED INSISTENCE ON START-UP OF TOKAI BY END OF JULY, AGAIN WE SEE THIS AS PLOY IN WHICH HE CANNOT LOSE; EITHER PLANT DOES START UP OR ELSE HE BLAMES US FOR DELAY. REACHING AGREEMENT IS STILL MORE IMPORTANT THAN MEETING SPECIFIC TIMETABLE.
END FYI.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) NAMES AND ETA'S OF US DEL ASAP; (B) ADVICE AS TO WHETHER SCHEINMAN WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL, AND IF SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS; (C) USG COMMENTS ON PRESS BRIEFINGS, PROPOSED SCHEDULE OR OTHER MATTERS, IF ANY.
MANSFIELD

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